

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

- 1 1. A distributed network comprising:
- 2 a. a plurality of hosts each of which has a storage
- 3 device and each of which may act as a client and a
- 4 server;
- 5 b. a file which is divided into a plurality of segments
- 6 wherein each segment is transmitted to said storage
- 7 devices of several of said hosts and stored in said
- 8 storage device of said host;
- 9 c. a shared communication channel to which each of said
- 10 hosts is coupled whereby one of said host acting as a
- 11 client requests that said hosts acting as servers and
- 12 collectively send all of said segments to said
- 13 requesting client so that said requesting client can
- 14 gather said segments together in order for said
- 15 segments to self-assemble and generate a single copy of
- 16 said file.

- 1 2. A distributed network according to claim 1 wherein at
- 2 least one host has a global list with entries each of which
- 3 contains all the necessary information about said file.

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